(b) In accordance with the provisions of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the Indian Institute of Managements (IIMs) is to be implemented in a phased manner in three years starting from the academic year 2007-08. As a result there will be increase in the seats of students in the IIMs. The Government is committed to provide financial support to the Institutes for creating academic and other infrastructure required for the additional intake of students. This also includes provision for recruitment of additional faculty.

Public and private partnership at primary and secondary education

44. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the concept of public and private partnership would be tried at primary and secondary education levels with social empowerment and equality; and

(b) if so, the strategy and initiative to achieve the object and what could be the outcome of such efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Amongst programmes for elementary education, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) gives emphasis to community ownership of schools and provides a role for public-private collaboration in several components of the programme including *inter-alia* alternative schooling, girls' education, computer aided learning, training and capacity building. In the case of Secondary Education, the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan calls for both public and private effort, which includes not only expansion in number of private schools to complement the public effort, but also in involving private sector in provision of facilities.

Dropout students

45. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: